AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims, which is provided in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in relation to the present patent application.

Listing of the Claims

1. (currently amended) A torch, comprising:

a torch butt having a dedicated passage for the flow of cutting oxygen;

a valve assembly removable from and positionable in the torch butt in two mutually opposed positions, and operable to control a first flow of a fluid through the torch butt and into the dedicated passage in both of the opposed positions;

a lever mutually exclusively securable to pivot about a first portion of the torch butt or alternatively a second portion of the torch butt, wherein the second portion is disposed on the torch butt opposite the first portion, wherein the lever is disposed at least substantially outside the torch butt in an accessible position; and

wherein the valve assembly is operable to enable the lever to operate the valve assembly with the lever selected to pivot about the first portion of the torch butt when the valve assembly is positioned in a first position and the second portion of the torch butt when the valve assembly is positioned in a second, mutually opposed position.

2. (previously presented) The torch recited in claim 1, wherein the lever is secured to the torch butt.

3. (previously presented) The torch recited in claim 1, wherein the valve assembly comprises a seat and the torch butt comprises a first seating surface for sealing engagement with the seat when the valve assembly is disposed in the first position and a

second seating surface for sealing engagement with the seat when the valve assembly is disposed in the second position.

4. (original) The torch as recited in claim 1, wherein the first portion of the torch butt and the second portion of the torch butt are disposed proximate to the rear of the torch butt.

5. (original) The torch as recited in claim 1, wherein the torch butt comprises a second valve assembly operable to control a second flow of the fluid through the torch butt.

6. (original) The torch as recited in claim 5, wherein the second valve assembly comprises a throttle valve.

7. (original) The torch as recited in claim 1, comprising a handle coupleable to the torch butt, wherein the handle has a skull-shaped cross section uniform along a length of the handle.

8. (original) The torch as recited in claim 1, comprising a handle coupleable to the torch butt, wherein the handle has an upper radius and a lower radius that are uniform along a length of the handle.

9-13. (cancelled)

14. (previously presented) A torch, comprising:

a valve assembly; and

a torch butt comprising a passageway for receiving the valve assembly, and a passageway for routing fluid through the torch;

wherein the valve assembly is selectively securable to the torch butt in a first orientation and a second orientation relative to the torch butt, the second orientation being inverted relative to the first orientation, the valve assembly being operable to control the fluid to the passageway in both the first and second orientations; and

wherein the torch butt comprises first and second intakes, such that the valve assembly receives the fluid from the first intake when in the first orientation and from the second intake when in the second orientation.

15. (original) The torch as recited in claim 14, wherein the passageway defines a first seating surface and a second seating surface for sealing engagement with the valve assembly, the first and second seating surfaces being oriented in opposite directions.

16. (original) The torch as recited in claim 14, comprising a first portion and a second portion, wherein the first and second portions are operable to pivotally secure a valve-operating lever to the torch butt, wherein the first portion and the second portion are disposed on opposite rear positions of the torch butt.

17. (original) The torch as recited in claim 16, wherein the valve assembly is oriented in the first orientation to enable the valve-operating lever to operate the valve assembly when secured to the first portion of the torch butt.

18. (original) The torch as recited in claim 17, wherein the valve assembly is oriented in the second orientation to enable the valve-operating lever to operate the valve assembly when secured to the second portion of the torch butt.

19. (original) The torch as recited in claim 16, wherein the first portion and the second portion comprise a hole in the torch member.

20-30. (cancelled)

31. (previously presented) A torch, comprising:

means for selectively securing a cutting oxygen valve assembly within a torch butt in a first and a second orientation relative to the torch to provide a fluid flow to a dedicated passage from first and second intakes, the second orientation being inverted relative to the first orientation, and wherein the cutting oxygen valve assembly receives the fluid flow from the first intake when in the first orientation and the second intake when in the second orientation; and

means for pivotally securing a lever on opposite sides of the torch to enable the lever to operate the cutting oxygen valve assembly in the first and the second orientation

32-35. (cancelled)

36. (previously presented) A torch comprising:

a valve body having a first inlet configured to receive a fuel, a second inlet configured to receive a fluid, a passageway configured to pass the fluid, and a valve passage extending crosswise through the valve body relative to a longitudinal axis of the valve body;

a valve assembly disposed in the valve passage and including a valve operable to control a flow of the fluid through the passageway in the valve body, wherein the valve assembly is removable from and operably positionable in the valve passage in two mutually opposed positions to control the flow of the fluid through the passageway; and

a lever selectively securable to a first portion of the valve body or a second portion of the valve body opposite the first portion.

37. (previously presented) The torch as recited in claim 36, wherein actuation of the valve in a direction crosswise to the longitudinal axis of the torch transitions the valve assembly between open and closed configurations.

38. (previously presented) The torch as recited in claim 36, wherein the second inlet is in fluid communication with first and second passageways extending through the valve body, and wherein the valve assembly selectively controls the flow of fluid through the first passageway when in the first position and selectively controls the flow of fluid through the second passageway when in the second position.

39. (previously presented) The torch as recited in claim 36, wherein the second inlet is configured to receive pressurized oxygen.

40. (previously presented) The torch as recited in claim 36, wherein the torch body includes a passageway located downstream of the valve assembly and extending in a direction askew to a longitudinal axis of the torch.

41. (previously presented) A system, comprising:

a torch, comprising:

a combustion tip;

a body coupled to the combustion tip;

a fuel inlet coupled to the body upstream from the combustion tip;

an oxygen inlet coupled to the body upstream from the combustion tip;

a valve passage disposed in the body; and

a reversible valve member disposed in the valve passage, wherein the reversible valve member is reversible relative to opposite ends of the valve passage.

42. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 41, comprising a reversible valve actuator that is reversible in accordance with the reversible valve member.

43. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 42, wherein the reversible valve actuator comprises a lever mutually exclusively securable to pivot about a first portion of the body or alternatively a second portion of the body.